

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**APRIL 11, 2006**

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 8:00 A.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council Members present were: President Jimmie Kesterson, Vice Chairman Nathan Miller, Dave Reagan, Carol Shelby, Garry Smith, John Withers, County Councilmember Ronald L. Fruitt, and Commissioner Ruth E. Shedd. Also present: Deputy Director Tim Batta, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Advisory Council Member John Walker and Director Mark Kirby were absent.)

TEMA Technician Martin Webb was in the audience.

Chairman Jimmie Kesterson called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2006 Meeting as distributed, seconded by Mr. Withers; motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Kesterson commented he thought the meeting with the Christopher Burke representative two weeks ago was productive toward determining TEMA's mission.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Deputy Director Tim Batta**

Deputy Director Batta is filling in today for Director Kirby who is attending the Governor's Conference on Volunteerism.

➔ Advisory Council Member Mike Kyger entered the meeting.

The Budget Summary thru April 7, 2006 showed large April expenditures of \$721 for Office Supplies and \$3,268 for Garage Supplies but Deputy Director Batta had no knowledge of what the purchases were.

The Burke representative will meet with the volunteers and their officers tonight. The meeting has already been held with the Haz-Mat Team.

**SIREN REPORT: Deputy Director Batta**

During the siren test held on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, sirens located on Dewey Hall at the Indiana Veterans Home and at Wainwright Middle School failed to activate. Mr. Batta said the siren at the Veterans Home was examined two months ago and a recommendation for correction was made to the Administration. The siren located at Wainwright has been in service since 1950 and cannot be repaired. He will present a funding request for siren replacement and maintenance to the County Council at their meeting later today.

The siren located on private property in Romney activates but does not rotate. When the ground dries enough for the bucket truck to enter the property, the siren will be moved to a hard surface location on public property.

So far, seven (7) control boards on the sirens have been lost due to lightning strikes. The sirens are grounded according to specifications from Federal Signal, the siren vendor.

In the evening on Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>, several properties in Randolph Township suffered extensive damage due to a storm that was later confirmed by the National Weather Service as an F-0 tornado with 100 mph winds.

Recently, sirens located at SR 25 & Donna Drive and 450 E & 500 N activated with no apparent cause. Mr. Batta speculated they were somehow triggered by a thunderstorm that came through the area approximately three hours earlier.

Councilmember Fruitt wondered if a lightening rod could be placed on a higher pole adjacent to the siren to draw the lightening. Mr. Miller commented we seem to have a high failure rate with approximately 5% of the sirens failing monthly. Mr. Smith noted that St. Joseph County has approximately as many sirens as Tippecanoe County and suggested contacting their EMA Director to learn how they protect their sirens from lightening damage.

Mr. Batta announced the GIS Department has almost completed the GPS map showing locations of sirens throughout the County.

#### ***HAZ-MAT TEAM REPORT: Deputy Director Batta***

Since the last meeting, the Haz-Mat Team had one response during which they used the Senis IR to identify an unknown substance. Mr. Batta reported that the annual number of responses has diminished mainly because they supply volunteer fire departments with absorbent to take care of gasoline spills. Because approximately ten (10) volunteer fire personnel are also Team members, Haz-Mat serves mostly as a support.

#### ***BIRD FLU EMERGENCY PLANNING***

Chairman Kesterson wondered about the progress of emergency planning in the event there are instances of Bird Flu in the community. Ms Shelby responded that District 4 is planning a tabletop drill sometime in the next four months and a full drill in the Fall. However, she said the Health Department will be the lead agency since an outbreak of Bird Flu will primarily be a medical response. Commissioner Shedd commented that the Commissioners, Sheriff Anderson, and Director Kirby will meet on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss Bird Flu related issues.

#### ***CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team)***

Mr. Miller inquired about the vision for CERT Teams because, during a recent neighborhood meeting, concerns about emergency procedures were discussed and he wondered if CERT might be an option for them. Deputy Director Batta responded that CERT trains civilians in neighborhoods to take care of an emergency situation prior to professional help arriving. Some of the skills they learn are basic first aid, how to cut off utilities, and how to free trapped individuals. Basic supplies for the Team are purchased with grant monies from FEMA. If there is a catastrophic event, he said it may take several days for emergency personnel to reach a neighborhood. CERT is basically neighbors helping neighbors. Mr. Batta noted that TEMA Secretary Brenda Melville heads up our CERT Program.

#### ***NEXT MEETING***

The next TEMA Advisory Council Meeting will be held at 8:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 9, 2006 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

#### ***ADJOURNMENT***

- Upon Councilmember Fruitt's motion and Commission Shedd's second, the meeting adjourned.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor